

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6499

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 7001

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PE

SUBJECT: THE GOP AND ITS MILITANT OPPOSITION

REF: LIMA 6552

1. THE GOP'S AUGUST 5TH DEPORTATION ORDER AGAINST 28 POLITICAL OPPONENTS (MANY OF WHOM INCLUDING TEACHER AND CAMPESINO LEADERS ARE STILL IN PERU SUCCESSFULLY AVOIDING CAPTURE) WAS MEANT TO CRIPPLE SUCCESSFUL ORGANIZING EFFORTS OF MILITANT FAR-LEFT UNIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN A MAJOR INFLUENCE IN TEACHER, MINER AND CAMPESINO SECTORS. GOP HOPED THAT DEPORTATIONS WOULD UPSET GROUPS WHICH HAD PLANNED DISRUPTIONS DURING NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE AS WAY TO DRAMATIZE PLIGHT OF PERUVIAN PEOPLE AND UNPOPULARITY OF REGIME. THE GOP EFFORT WAS ONLY PARTIALLY SUCCESSFUL.

2. IN AFTERMATH OF DEPORTATIONS, THE COMMITTEE FOR CLASSIST UNION COORDINATION AND UNIFICATION (CCUSC) CALLED FOR NATIONAL MOBILIZATION IN OPPOSITION TO THE REGIME. AUGUST 15 CCUSC RALLY IN LIMA WAS DISPERSED BY POLICE. TEACHERS UNION (SUTEP) HAS CALLED FOR 1-DAY NATIONAL STRIKE ON AUGUST 28 TO COINCIDE WITH NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE. AND GOP IS SAID TO BE CONCERNED WITH INCIPIENT GUERRILLA NUCLEI IN CENTROMIN (CERRO DE PASCO) MINE AREA WHERE MINERS AND TEACHERS ARE WORKING TOGETHER. THE GUERRILLA LEADER IS SAID TO HAVE WORKED WITH 1960'S GUERRILLA CHIEFTAIN LUIS DE LA PUENTE.

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3. IRRESPECTIVE OF SUCCESS OF SUTEP AUGUST 28 STRIKE OR OTHER EFFORTS TO MOBILIZE LEFT IN PROTEST AGAINST GOP POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC POLICIES, EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT GOP IS PLANNING MORE DECISIVE ACTION AGAINST FAR-LEFT SOON AFTER NON-ALIGNED DELEGATIONS DEPART SCENE. GOP SOURCE HAS TOLD EMBOFF THAT UP TO 1,000 TEACHERS AND LEFTISTS MAY BE DEPORTED IN ORDER TO TERMINATE FAR-LEFT INFLUENCE AMONG TEACHERS AND MINERS.

4. IN ADDITION SOME OF THE CIRCA-500 CITIZENS WHO RECENTLY SIGNED PUBLIC PROTEST AGAINST CLOSURE OF LEFTIST PUBLICATION "MARCA" MAY BE DEPORTED. THOSE AMONG THE 500 WHO ARE GOP EMPLOYEES ARE BEING DISMISSED AND SOME OF THE OTHERS HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO LATE-NIGHT VISITS BY POLICE.

5. GOP PATIENCE WITH OPPOSITION APPEARS TO HAVE RUN ITS COURSE. THE PATH OF REPRESSION IS INCREASINGLY BEING CHOSEN ALTHOUGH GOP VIEW SEEMS TO BE THAT DEPORTATION IS A RELATIVELY MILD AND EVEN REVERSIBLE FORM OF REPRESSION, WITHOUT THE DEBILITATING EFFECTS OF TORTURE OR IMPRISONMENT. SOME DEPORTEES MAY DEBATE THIS POINT.
DEAN

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